

REMARKS

Claims 13-18 and 20-24 are presented for consideration, with claims 20 and 21 being independent.

Initially, the specification has been amended as requested in paragraph two of the Office Action.

In the claims, claim 21 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, editorial changes have been made to selected claims, and claim 20 has been placed in independent form. In amending the claims, the objections noted in claims 13 and 21 have been addressed. Claims 1-11 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter not adequately described in the specification. In response to this rejection, claim 21 has been amended to recite the step of heating locally the seal bonding material after setting the member. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In amending the claims, particular attention was to paid to the grounds for this rejection as set forth on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response to this rejection, claim 19 has been canceled and claim 20 has been amended to include the steps of claim 21. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore deemed to be in order.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Haven et al. '681 in view of Veerasamy '242 and Schrank '557. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Haven et al., Veerasamy, Schrank, Wang et al. '281, and Barzilai et al. '878. Claims 1, 2, 5, 11 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Kang et al. '731 in view of Nishimura '272, Veerasamy and Schrank. Claims 13, 18 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Kang et al., Nishimura, Veerasamy and Schrank and further in view of Schermerhorn '945 and Misonou '610. Claims 1-6, 10, 11 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Schrank in view of Wang et al. '321, Misonou and Minaai et al. '733. Claims 21-24, 7-9, 13-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Schrank, Wang et al. '321, Misonou, Minaai et al., Schermerhorn and Veerasamy. Claims 1-6, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Wang et al. '281 in view of Wang et al. '321. Claims 21-24 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Wang et al. '281 and Wang et al. '321. Claims 7-9 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Wang et al. '281, Wang et al. '321 and Veerasamy. Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Wang et al. '281, Wang et al. '321, Veerasamy, Misonou and Minaai et al. Claims 1-6, 10 and 11 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Barzilai et al. in view of Schrank, Veerasamy, Wang et al. '321, Misonou and Minaai et al. Finally, claims 21-24, 7-9, 13-18 and 20 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Barzilai et al., Schrank, Veerasamy, Wang et al., Misonou and Minaai et al., Schermerhorn and Veerasamy.

The rejections as applied to claims 1-11 and 19 are deemed to be moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. The rejections as applied to claims 13-18 and 20-24 are respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 of Applicants' invention relates to a method of manufacturing an airtight container and includes the steps of setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate, and supplying a seal bonding material of indium or indium alloy to a corner portion formed by the substrate and the member or to a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step. As claimed, after the setting step, under a condition of heating the member at a temperature equal to or lower than 130°C and equal to or lower than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding, the seal bonding material is heated locally to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which a seal bonding material can perform bonding. The heated seal bonding material is then cured, so as to perform air tight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material to form a closed bonding line.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a superior airtight container can be manufactured.

Independent claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on various combinations of cited art. It is submitted, however, that none of the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination with each other, teaches or suggests, among other features,

heating locally the sealing bond material to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which it can perform bonding, after the setting step and under a condition of heating the member at a temperature equal to or lower than 130°C and equal to or lower than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding.

The Haven et al. patent relates to a multiple glass sheet glazing unit consisting of sheets of glass 26 and 27 separated by an air space 28 and supported by separator strips 29. These strips are joined to the glass by a solder composition of fillets 93 and 94. Haven et al. is relied upon for providing a linear seal bonding material. Haven et al. is also relied upon for its teaching of a low melting point metal as the seal bonding material.

Veerasamy relates to a window unit 31 having a first glass substrate 33, a second glass substrate 35 and a hermetic edge seal 51. Veerasamy is relied on in the Office Action for hermetically sealing the periphery to form an airtight container.

Schrank relates to a thin film electro-illuminant display device and was cited for its teaching of hermetically sealing a periphery to form an airtight container. In this regard, epoxy 38 is used as such a perimeter seal (*see* FIG. 4).

Wang et al. '281 relates to a vacuum window unit and is relied upon for teaching first and second edge seals 21 and 23 to provide a hermetic seal (*see* FIG. 4).

Barzilai et al. relates to a hollow space cell and is relied upon for providing a peripheral ridge 14 along the perimeter of a hollow space between glass plates 10 and 11 (*see* FIG. 2).

Kang et al. relates to a plasma display panel that shows a frit glass 22 disposed at a peripheral edge between glass substrates 11 and 12 (*see* FIG. 3).

Nishimura relates to an image forming apparatus that shows a spacer 89 and a frame member 82 positioned between a rear plate 81 and a face plate 86 (*see* FIG. 8B). The spacers connect with frit glass 80 and 90. Nishimura is relied upon for using localized heating to heat materials.

Schermerhorn relates to a flat panel display and is relied upon for using indium or indium alloy as a seal bonding material.

Misonou relates to a glass panel with an airtight container having a hermetically sealed periphery.

Wang et al. '321 relates to a vacuum window unit with a hermetically sealed periphery, and is used for its teaching of locally heating seal bonding material.

None of the art discussed above, however, is understood to teach or suggest manufacturing having an airtight container that includes, among other features, locally heating the seal bonding material after the setting step and under a condition of heating the member at a temperature equal to or lower than 130°C and equal to or lower than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding. In this regard, the Office Action asserts, on page 8, that Haven et al. teaches heating the member (emphasis added). As read by Applicants, however, Haven et al. teaches heating the bonding material, but not the member, as set forth in Applicants' invention.

Therefore, without conceding the proposed combinations of art, such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 21. Each of the depending claims depend from independent claim 21 and are thus submitted to be patentable for

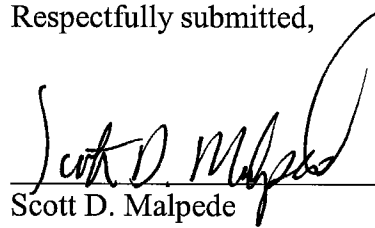
the same reasons, as well as for their own features. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 21 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, independent claim 20 relates to a method of manufacturing an image display apparatus and includes the steps of claim 21. Claim 20 is thus also submitted to be patentable. Dependent claims 13-18 and 22-24 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are deemed to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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